The 14th Annual Peabody Museum of Salem Antiques Show



An American Classic at Christie's



An Important Chippendale Carved Mahogany Blockfront Secretary Bookcase signed by John Chipman, Salem, Massachusetts, ca. 1785.

To be sold at Christie's New York on January 24, 1987.

From this year's record-setting sales of the Jay Family Portrait Collection and a million dollar Philadelphia Tea Table, to the dedicated promotion of a single piece of silver or China tea cup, Christie's sales bring results. Inquiries concerning upcoming auctions or future consignments may be directed to Elizabeth Chapin, 15 Traill Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

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CHRISTIE'S

The Fourteenth Annual Peabody Museum of Salem Antiques Show

Saturday, November 29, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, November 30, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Hamilton Hall, 9 Chestnut Street Salem, Massachusetts

The Peabody Museum of Salem benefits from the proceeds of this show including the general admission and the preview reception, but not from the sales made by the dealers.



Weston, Massachusetts

SPACIOUS COLONIAL REVIVAL: Set on secluded 3½ acres of woods and lawns on a tree-shaded lane, this gracious 3-story residence, renovated in 1984, offers 6 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2-story family room with gallery. 2-story barn. \$1,200,000

Brochure #PMA5-191



Lincoln, Massachusetts

ARTIST'S RETREAT: Dramatic open-design Contemporary with exquisite gardens and trails is situated on 3 ± acres bordering a 70-acre farm. Architect-planned, 1-4 bedrooms, decks, skylights and artist's studio renovated from an old schoolhouse. \$560,000 Brochure #PMA5-195



West Newbury, Massachusetts
PASSIVE SOLAR CONTEMPORARY: On 7.9 acres of lawns and gardens, this red cedar Contemporary passive solar 8-room "envelope" house has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and 2 half baths, and features a solarium along the entire southern facade. 4-car garage. \$575,000 Brochure #PMA5-197



Alna, Maine

1750 FEDERAL RESIDENCE: 27-acre farm with views of the gentle Sheepscot River. 10-room residence has original Indian shutters, iron hardware, 6 fireplaces, 2 living rooms, library and porch. Property supports small horse farm, 7-stall barn.
\$375,000

Brochure #PMA10-77



Yarmouth, Maine

JACOB G. LORING HOUSE: This handsome Greek Revival residence built in 1837, sits on 2 hilltop acres near the harbor, and boasts 16 rooms; 6 bedrooms, 3½ baths and 6 fireplaces. 2½-story carriage house has family room and game room. Brochure #PMA10-87 \$595,000



Thetford Hill, Vermont
1824 FEDERAL: With hilltop views of fields and mountains, this handsome main residence on 41/2 acres has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, new kitchen, period wainscotting, wooden hearth, 2 porches. 2 separate apartments in ell addition. Barn/garage. \$300,000

Brochure #PMA20-90



Conway, Massachusetts

1770s NEWHALL FARMSTEAD: Private 111 ± acres of pastoral views with fenced paddocks, brooks and ponds, old wood roads. Superbly restored 8-room Colonial with period wainscotting, trellised walkway to summer pavilion. Bank barn; staff/guest apartment.

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Brochure #PMA5-182



Moultonboro, Carroll County, New Hampshire

OLDE ORCHARD INN: Lovely estate with 12 ± acres of lawns, meadows and an apple orchard. Now operating a a bed-and-breakfast. Built in 1810, renovated in 1984. 14 rooms include 8 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 half baths. Guest house: barn.

\$425,000

Brochure #PMA22-67

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FOREWORD

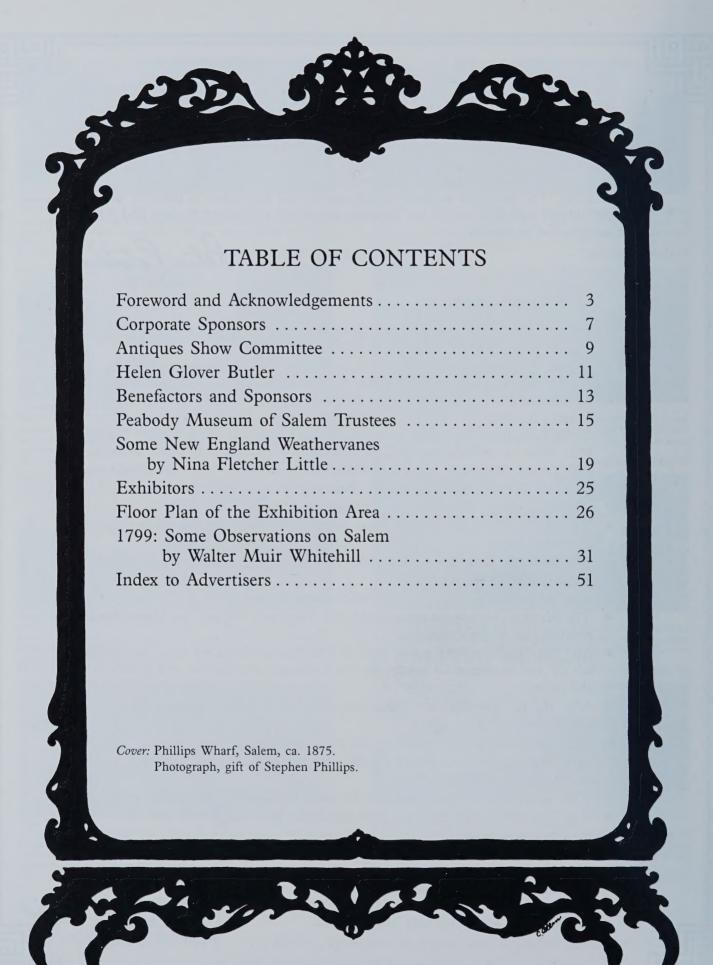
We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to those who have given their labor throughout the year to the Museum's Annual Antiques Show. Mrs. Dana A. Summerville and Mrs. Michael E. F. Treacy, co-chairmen, and the other committee heads as well as a host of volunteers have assured the success of this major undertaking. The generous support of individuals and businesses is likewise essential to this holiday tradition and to the Peabody Museum's continued success and growth. We are grateful to you all.

Peter Fetchko Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Show Committee acknowledges with gratitude the following individuals and businesses for their generosity and help in the production of the Antiques Show:

- Booma Oil Inc., Bursaw Oil Co., D.O.S. Computer Center, Eastern Bank, Fidelity Leather Co., First Realty Group, Renwood Realty Inc., Riso Inc., Shilla Restaurant Inc., State Street Bank and Trust Co., The Conifer Group Inc., West Lynn Creamery Inc., Wigglesworth Machinery Co. and Yeremian Advertising Associates Inc. for sponsoring the Preview Party and Reception.
- Our Benefactors and Sponsors for their generous contributions.
- Mrs. Bertram K. Little for her catalogue article.
- The Estate of Samuel Chamberlain for allowing us to use the photographs of Hamilton Hall.
- The Board of Directors of Hamilton Hall for again allowing us to use their lovely building for our Show.
- Mrs. Christine Vining, our wonderful Show Manager.
- The Newspapers, Magazines, Radio and Television Stations for their help in making this Show a success.
- Mr. Dan Slade and the entire staff of The Cricket Press for their invaluable advice and assistance in producing the Catalogue, invitations and tickets for the Show.
- Mrs. Ralph Tyler and her Committee of talented flower arrangers for their decorations.
- Mrs. Linzee Wallis for her expertise as Treasurer.
- Mr. Larry Quimere of Rene's Caterers for making this party such a memorable event.
- The Advertisers in this Catalogue for their loyal and continued support.
- The Exhibitors, who by their high standards, have made this Show a continuous success.
- The Bull and Finch Pub for supplying the food and drink during the regular Show hours.
- The members of the Museum staff who ably assisted us throughout the year, especially Miss Alida Bryant, Miss Kathy Flynn, Mrs. Dolores Jordan, Mr. Mark Sexton and Miss Sara Shaughnessy.





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This fine pictorial needlework sampler, probably Newburyport, Massachusetts, late 18th/early 19th century, sold at our New York galleries in February 1986 for \$101,750—the auction record for a sampler.

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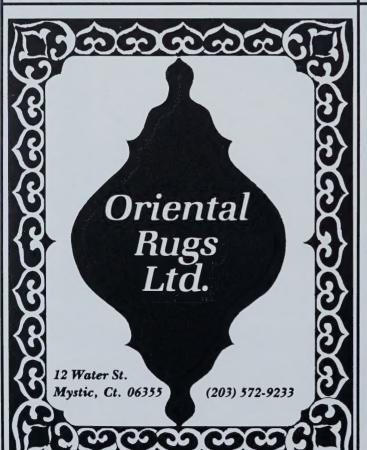
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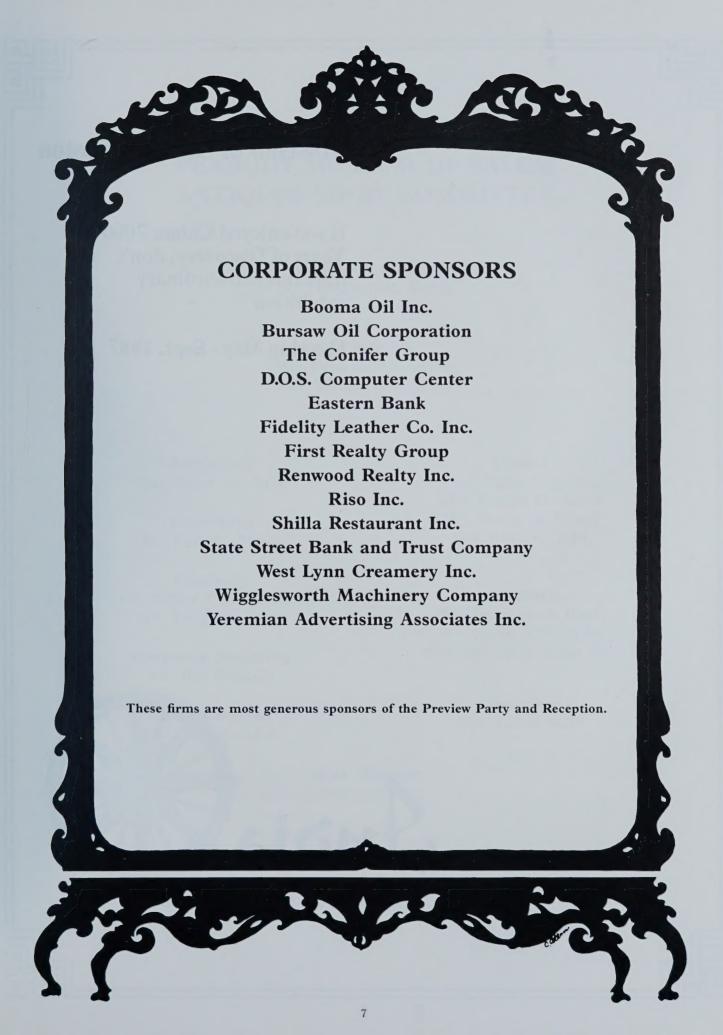


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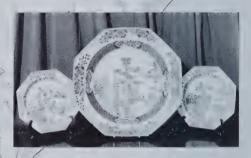
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Together with a wide selection of porcelains from the dinner and tea services and other forms ordered for the Dutch East India Company Amsterdam Sales consisting of guglets, a complete wash set with the hot water jug, large deep dishes, and pieces to a time octagonal underglaze blue and white dinner service. Also, an interesting group of small cups and saucers (somewhat damaged but rare) in Kang Bri shapes and decorations.











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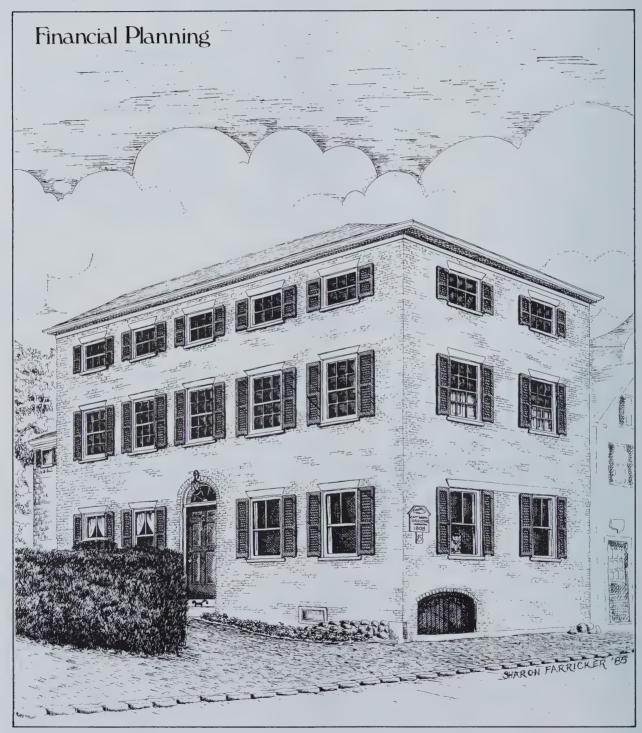
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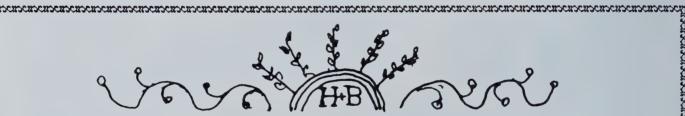
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SOME NEW ENGLAND WEATHERVANES

Nostalgic Symbols of the Sea

by Nina Fletcher Little

Apart from a few farm implements fashioned with pleasing lines and embellished with artistic skill, carved objects connected with old New England barns are best exemplified by the numerous weathervanes that were once a familiar sight before their partial disappearance owing to wind, weather, and the unwelcome attention of venturesome thieves. A number of old metal vanes are still in place but the majority of these were not handmade. They were factory products cast in almost every conceivable form, although many of the designs echoed earlier wooden models. Only a few vanes of eighteenth-century date still remain but some that perpetuate the early traditions continued to be carved as late as the opening years of the twentieth century. Each hand-made vane was a one-ofa-kind creation of its maker even though his personal identity may now be long forgotten.

In New England with its affinity for the sea, marine subjects were especially popular. In the 1870s one could order a twenty-four inch metal codfish from a manufacturer's catalogue for \$17.50, or a thirty-inch model for \$20.00. Produced by the



(Fig. 1) Fish carved by Alonzo Parker, East Kingston, New Hampshire.

thousands, they undoubtedly lacked the originality that characterized their wooden counterparts, but they suggested a whiff of salt air when they swung briskly in a strong easterly breeze. Fig. 1 shows one of three similar fish that were installed on neighboring farms in East Kingston, New Hampshire, during the middle of the nineteenth century. Alonzo Parker, known locally as "a seafar-



(Fig. 2) Fish (not a weathervane) by John O. J. Frost, Marblehead, Massachusetts.



(Fig. 3) Swan from Peabody, Massachusetts.



(Fig. 4) Serpent whose design may have perpetuated the legend of the famous Gloucester sea serpent.



(Fig. 5) Full rigged ship from Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard.

ing man", was a maker, and he carved them in the round from one large stick of wood. By incising and painting a red gill and eye and attaching black metal fins to the shaped white body, Parker gave distinction to his fish and made them recognizable wherever seen. Another wooden cod of more traditional pattern, said to have been carved in Newburyport, Massachusetts, swung for nearly a hundred years atop a barn on the George W. Adams farm in Byfield. This vane was mounted in 1858 and remained unpainted for sixty-nine years. Carved in the 1920s by Marblehead's native folk artist John O. J. Frost, the large painted fish in Fig. 2, measuring sixty-six inches in length, was cut from two flat boards and embellished with added

fins and a painted eye. Never fitted as a weathervane, it was found on the premises of his former home at 11 Pond St. where it once hung as a decoration above the privy door.

Rarer than fish, and now seldom seen, are wooden swans with folded wings. A good, well-weathered example on an old board came from a small outbuilding in Peabody, Massachusetts, (Fig. 3). Snakes were perhaps less pleasing but created effective designs when silhouetted against the sky. The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center in Williamsburg owns a fine hand-forged snake of early date, while Fig. 4 presents a sea serpent carved from a single piece of wood. Vanes of this type may be later manifestations based on the legendary sea



(Fig.6) Mallard duck by A. Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts.

serpent which was reported in *Gleason's Pictorial* in 1852 as having made an annual appearance off Cape Ann in the mid-nineteenth century.

Seventy-five years ago weathervanes in the form of square rigged ships were often to be seen along the New England coast, and were even found many miles from the sea. They were constructed as three-dimensional models with wire rigging, wooden hulls, spars, and sails and sometimes, at least, were locally made. Only one or two sails were traditionally set, possibly to ensure that the vane did not catch the wind and sail off its pole, but more likely to head it properly into the wind. Fig. 5 shows a familiar type that originated in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, and probably dates from the 1890s. Another vessel with two sails was made by a re-

tired sea captain for an old house in Ponkapoag, Massachusetts. Eventually outliving its usefulness in its first location, it has since decorated the gable of a summer home in Tenants Harbor, Maine, for over fifty years. Still a third ship, spotted atop a weathered building near Weathersfield Bow, Vermont, exhibits the unusual feature of a sail with peak lowered as if in anticipation of a coming storm.

One twentieth-century carver merits special recognition because the few weathervanes he made are outstanding for their form and decoration, and they carry on the earlier tradition of wooden vanes. A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1951) was born and spent most of his long life in East Harwich, Massachusetts, where he became known for carving and



(Fig. 7) Canada goose attributed to A. Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts.

painting outstanding decoys and ornamental shore birds. Crowell is quoted by a friend as saying that he made less than a dozen full-bodied duck vanes, no two of which were exactly alike, and that many were never used outdoors but were kept inside as ornamental pieces (Fig. 6). A Canada goose with wings lowered in flight is another of his effective models (Fig. 7).

Although many of the old outbuildings which supported these picturesque vanes have now disappeared, many of the vanes themselves have become so-called "collectors' items," and as such are now carefully preserved and attractively displayed in both public and private folk art collections.

















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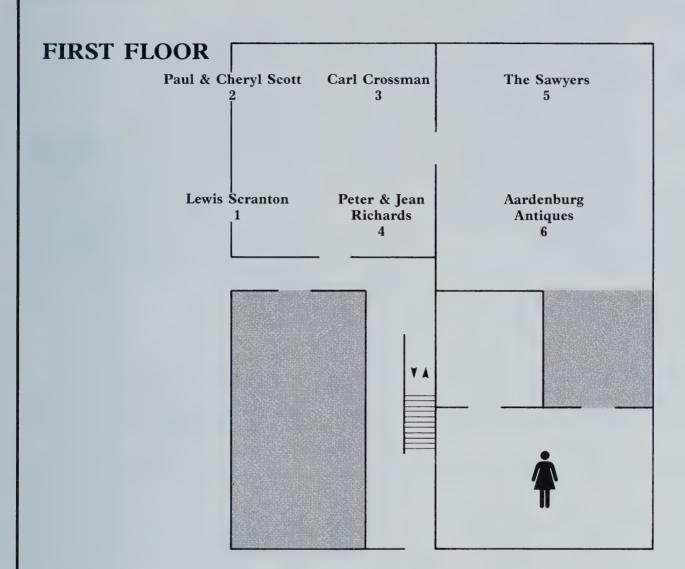
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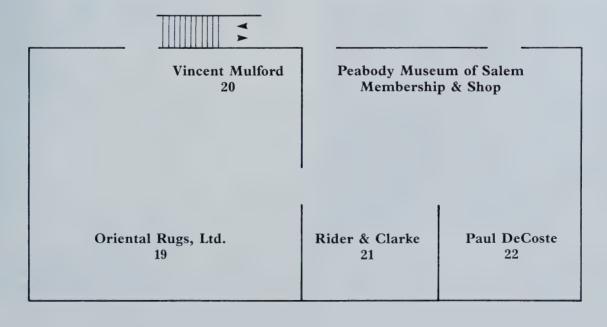


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Hamilton Hall on Chestnut Street, Salem. Photograph courtesy of the Estate of Samuel Chamberlain.

Peabody Museum is the successor) and the launching of the frigate ESSEX. These were important events. One might be led to believe that, because of the beauty of objects exhibited at the Peabody Museum of Salem, and at the Antiques Show, that 1799 was a golden year, in which people lived decorously, surrounded by beautiful objects. Life,

In 1799 two events took place: the founding of the Salem East India Marine Society (of which the

discovers that 1799 in Salem was no exception by skimming through the diary of the Reverend William Bentley. He recorded everything, including the New Year's wish of the *Gazette*, which said of Salem:

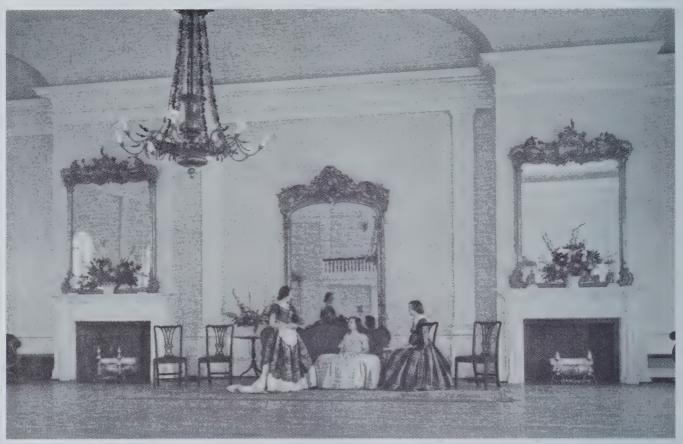
however, has never been all beer and skittles. One

1799: SOME OBSERVATIONS ON SALEM

by Walter Muir Whitehill

"Tho' often last, she's never least, And fame & fortune to secure Tho' very slow, she's very sure."

The year was in the middle of an undeclared war, which dragged on endlessly. This naval conflict with France had begun early in 1797 and was not over until late in 1801. The great national tragedy of 1799 was the death of General Washington, the news of which was received in Salem on 23 December. The great loss locally was the death on 8 September of Elias Hasket Derby, "the most eminent merchant that has even been in Salem." Dr. Bentley, however, recorded other unfortunate events, at both ends of the social scale. The unhappy Anna Wyatt, the passionate and talented



Elegant ballroom where Lafayette danced in Hamilton Hall. Photograph courtesy of the Estate of Samuel Chamberlain.

daughter of a skipper in the coasting trade, who was "at variance" with his wife, died at Dr. Kittredge's in North Andover on 23 January, leaving two bastards. She sang well and "everywhere her company was desired", but she was seduced by a young man named Bray, "having refused the addresses of a young man of greater industry", was seduced again "by a young carpenter, a stranger & widower", was confined in the workhouse until he would leave town, retired to Andover and died at 33. Then on 18 November Dr. Bentley noted: "Mr. Joseph Cabot, aet. 26, was this day brought to Salem from Boston to be buried. His uncommon intemperance has hastened his ruin. He was thrown into convulsions and died in that state."

Seductions and intemperance were not the only blemishes on life in 1799; students at Harvard College became hooligans, as they have before and since. On 3 April Dr. Bentley noted: "the Centinel

notices the excentricities at the Elections of yester-day. The Students at the Universities huzzaing at the door, the Constables threatened with a prosecution for clearing the house. The Conduct at the College is ridiculous." So many of us thought 170 years later when the S.D.S., abetted by some members of the faculty who should have known better, disturbed the peace of the Harvard Yard. Ten days later "the Centinel entertains us with the zeal of the students of Cambridge to resent their being excluded from the Town meeting by breaking the windows of the last representative."

The "energy crisis" and inflation were anticipated on 7 November when a town meeting "warned upon the subject of fuel. It is between 6 & 7 Dollars from the Wharfingers. The wood from the country is sold at the same price." At an adjourned town meeting the next day "nothing done about the poor's fuel; few present." There were careless

mothers as well, for on 18 December Dr. Bentley reported: "A child from this town going to Andover, suffocated by warm & close cloathing. The same kind of accident on the same spot happened last year."

It was not in Salem but upon Cape Ann that Dr. Bentley in 1799 found a remarkable example of the liberated woman. On the morning of 14 May, before taking a tour of the cape in a chaise he "stopped in the Harbour to be shaved by a woman named Becky who in due form exercises all the functions of a *Barber*. She has her shop decorated with all the pictures which belong to such places of resort, from the meanest Black print to the best engraving, with all the songs which are in the taste of the varied multitude of her customers. It was a solitary example of a woman in this employment. She

shaves well but has few attractions of her sex."

There never was a "golden age" in the past, nor is there ever likely to be one in the future, in spite of the rhetoric of politicians and "do gooders". Mankind is a mixed bag, whose proportions are unlikely to change. But some works of good craftsmanship survive from the past to alleviate the dreariness of the present and offer reasonable inspiration for the future. Some excellent institutions survive, as the Peabody Museum has, and even show signs of getting better.

This article by the late Walter Muir Whitehill is reprinted from the Annual Peabody Museum of Salem Antiques Show Catalog of 1974. Mr. Whitehill was one of New England's best known historians. He was Librarian of The Boston Athenaeum for many years and served as Historian and Trustee of the Peabody Museum of Salem.





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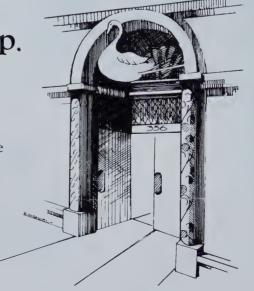
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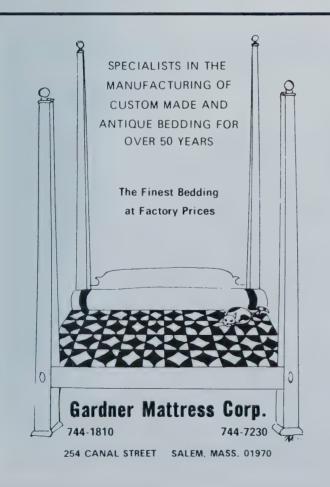
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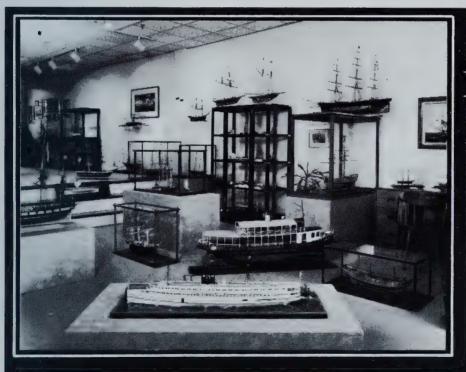
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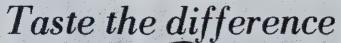
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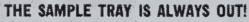
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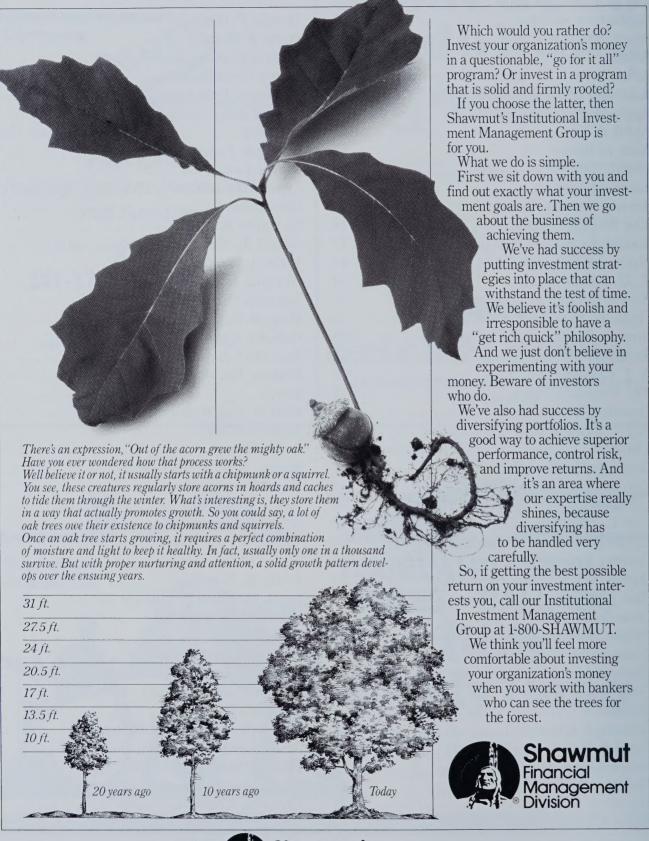
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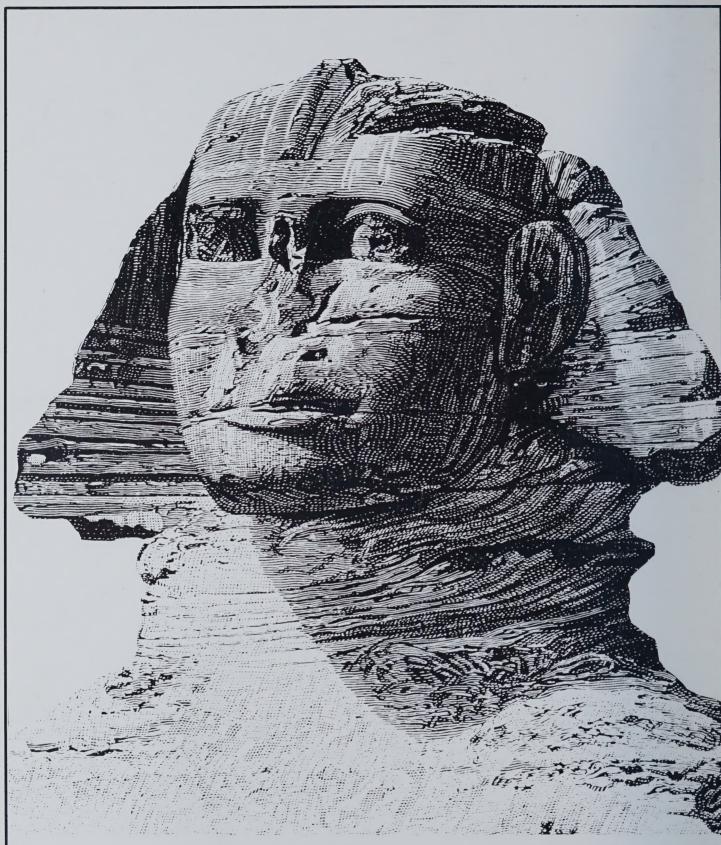
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